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THE MISSION OF COL. JOHN LAURENS TO  
EUROPE IN 1781.<sup>41</sup>

[*Continued from the October number.*]

[44.]

[LT. COL. JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT<sup>42</sup> TO JOHN LAURENS.]

Philadelphia Jy the 29 1781—

I am in hopes, my Dear friend, this letter will find you still in Boston, but upon the point of departing. . . . . the public, & your friends who sensibly feel your loss, wish you gone, that you may return the sooner to a business no less important & perhaps more so, than that you are going upon. . . . this most pretious time flips away faster than ever, & what distresses me most, is that I have at present no better prospect of my exchange than before. . . . . the execution of the useful plan we meditated seems also to be further off than ever. . . . . the people who from the beginning were averse to it, ground their present opposition upon my captivity; whilst those who appeared to approve & patronise it, (& I begin to have my doubts about the veracity of their sentiments, especially the Gov<sup>r</sup>' h's), wuld not yet be prevailed upon to write that letter to General Greene, which was intended to hasten my exchange. . . . . for our country' sake hasten back to us

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<sup>41</sup> The first two papers here given should have been published with the first installment of the Laurens diplomatic papers in this magazine for January, 1900, but they have only lately been discovered—among some other Laurens papers.

<sup>42</sup> "Ternant, Jean Baptiste (France). Lieutenant-Colonel and Inspector Continental Army, 25th September, 1778, with pay from 26th March, 1778, and served with the Pulaski Legion; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780; brevet Colonel, 13th October, 1783; subsequently was by act of 22d April, 1784, appointed Colonel of Armand's Partisan Corps or Legion to date from March 26, 1783; the date of Armand's promotion to Brigadier General; served to close of war. (Died April, 1816.)"—Historical Register of Officers of Continental Army (F. B. Heitman). See also Year Book, City of Charleston, 1897, Appendix.

with all the necessaries requisite, & make that, one of your primary objects, for I begin to fear, this winter will be lost to us & perhaps part of the spring. . . . . however, you may depend I shall go to the utmost of my power and abilities in advancing the business as soon as I am exchanged . . . . a favorable opportunity lately offered, to get some foundations for the scheme (tho', not the best) & at the same time to persuade the people, I had given up all views relative to it,—that was Col: Armand proposing to attach me to his corps, of which I was to have the command during his absence. . . . . the matter has been referred by Congress to General Washington, & I dont know yet what will be the issue of it. . . . . I do not send you letters to my friends, for I have scarce any in the Capital; & you will not go at all nigh the place where the remains of my family reside. . . . . besides, you have been so amply furnished with letters to so much greater people, that mine would rather appear insignificant however as some individuals may chance to mention you my name, tell them, I am un bien bon american & mean to continue so. . . .—for news I must refer you to Col: Armand—adieu my Dear friend. be sure of my warmest wishes for you & of the truest attachment that any man ever felt for another ;<sup>43</sup> Ternant

*Endorsed :* Letter from  
Col. Ternant  
Philadelphia  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 29-1781.

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<sup>43</sup> The admiration of these Frenchmen—witness Du Plessis, Decorny, Lamorliere, Ternant—for John Laurens is not to be wondered at when we take into consideration the character of the man and the Frenchman's inborn love for the hero. Not only was he the idol of enthusiastic Frenchmen, but even his enemies had for him an admiration akin to that which the Federal soldier had for Stonewall Jackson. *The Royal Gazette*, (Charles Town, S. C.) for Saturday, Sept. 7, 1782, says:

“By accounts from the country we learn, that Mr. John Laurens, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the rebel army, and son of Mr. Henry Laurens, now in London; was lately killed near Combahee river, in attempting to impede the operations of a detachment of his Majesty's troops.

“When we contemplate the character of this young gentleman, we

[45]

[JOHN LAURENS TO GEN. BENJAMIN LINCOLN.]

Boston. 2<sup>d</sup>. Feby. 1781.

The absolute failure of all other resources for completing the deficiency of the Alliances Crew, reduces me to the necessity of applying to you for authority to engage such of the recruits of this State as may be qualified for the marine service. The inclosed return from Capt. Barry will shew you that the number wanting is but small— I am persuaded that you will think that the men cannot anywhere be so advantageously employed— when I inform you that Congress ground their hopes of a vigorous continuance or honorable termination of the War, upon the success of my mission <sup>44</sup>—

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have only to lament his great error on his outset in life, in espousing a public cause which was to be sustained by taking up arms against his Sovereign. Setting aside this single deviation from the path of rectitude, we know no one trait of his history which can tarnish his reputation as a man of honour, or effect his character as a gentleman. His generosity of temper and liberality of opinion, were as extensive as his abilities; as a soldier, he fought for glory, and as a citizen he pursued what he thought to be the interests of his country—He constantly condemned every oppressive measure adopted against the Loyalists, and always contended that a steady and disinterested adherence to political tenets, though in opposition to his own, ought to render their possessor an object of esteem rather than of persecution. His humanity can be no better illustrated than by mentioning what we are well assured was the case, that he highly reprobated the refusal of Matthewes, the Rebel Governour, to the proposal from this garrison, respecting the purchase of a quantity of rice; on this generous principle, that it was cruel to withhold from those persons whom the Assembly of the Province had banished, the provisions which were necessary for the support in a foreign country, of the slaves they were to carry with them.

“ While we were thus marking the death of an enemy who was dangerous to our Cause from his abilities, we hope we shall stand excused for paying tribute, at the same time, to the *moral* excellencies of his character—Happy would it be for the distressed families of those persons who are to leave this garrison with his Majesty's troops that another LAURENS could be found !”

<sup>44</sup> This was quite true. Had not France come to the assistance of the American States in 1781 they would not have attained their in-

and that there is no other obstacle to the instant dispatch which the exigency demands than the want of the men above mentioned—

The eagerness with which you always pursue the general interest leaves me no doubt of your ready concurrence in the measure proposed and gives me confidence in soliciting your counsels and influence with respect to any auxiliary mode that may be used on this important occasion.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

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*Endorsed* : Copy of a Letter from J. L.  
to Gen<sup>l</sup> Lincoln.  
Boston 3<sup>d</sup> feby. 1781.

[46.<sup>45</sup>]

[BABUT & LABOUCHERE TO JOHN LAURENS.]

Monsieur

Nous avons reçu avec un plaisir infini la lettre obligeante dont vous nous avez honorés le 9 de ce mois, nous aurions bien désiré, Monsieur, avoir pu vous prouver lors de votre passage à Nantes les sentimens d'attachement et de veneration

dependence, and the aid that France gave in 1781 would probably never have been given but for the work of John Laurens among the politicians of Europe. It was European politics, not American valor, that secured the Independence of the American States just when they did attain their independence.

<sup>45</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D. :

Monsieur :

We have received with infinite p'easeure the kind letter with which you honored us on the 9th of this month. We should have greatly desired, Monsieur, to be able to prove to you at the time of your trip to Nantes, the feelings of attachment and veneration by which we have for a long time been penetrated for you and your respectable family. Be assured that there is none more sincere, and that nothing could add more to our happiness than to find frequent occasions to convince you of them. You will please, then, Monsieur, dispose of us in any way in which you think we could be of any service whatever.

Your packet to the Congress has been sent and commended to the

dont nous sommes pénétrés depuis long tems pour vous et pour votre respectable famille; Soyez persuadé qu'il n'en est pas de plus sincère, et que rien ne sauroit ajouter davantage à notre bonheur que de trouver souvent des occasions pour vous en convaincre. Veuillez donc, Monsieur, disposer de nous dans toutes celles où vous croirez que nous poussons vous être bons à quelque chose.

Votre paquet pour le Congrès a été remis et recommandé au cap<sup>ne</sup>. du Paquebot l'actif, qui n'attend que les derniers ordres du Docteur Franklin pour partir.

Il nous paroît fort difficile, Monsieur, de pouvoir établir des prix positifs pour la partie considérable de draperie et de toiles dont vous nous donnez la note, il faudroit pour cet effet faire un traité avec des fournisseurs et nous n'en connoissons pas ici qui fussent en état d'entreprendre la livraison de la totalité dans un court espace de tems, ou bien nous n'aurions pas nous memes une grande confiance dans leur exactitude à remeplir un pareil engagement; d'ailleurs nous regarderions cette manière de traiter comme fort désavantageuse pour les intérêts dont vous êtes chargé, parceque ces fournisseurs fontt oujours leur calcul sur un pré favorable pour eux, et nous ne pensons pas que ce fut la voye la plus courte pour vous procurer promptement la totalité de ces articles;

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Captain of the Packet-boat Active, who is waiting only for Dr. Franklin's last orders to sail.

It would seem to us very difficult, Monsieur, to fix a definite price for the considerable part of the cloths and linens the list of which you give us. It would require for that purpose a consultation with the furnishers, and we do not know here which of them would be able to undertake the summing up of the whole in a short space of time, nor would we ourselves have much confidence in their exactness in filling such an engagement; besides, we should regard that style of procedure as very detrimental to the interests which you represent, because these contractors always make their calculation upon a basis favorable to themselves, and we do not think that would be the shortest way for you to obtain promptly the total amount of these articles. We should in your place prefer to employ an honorable house, and one whose means and credit would be sufficient to collect these different kinds of goods at the place of ship-

nous prefererions a votre place, de charger une maison honnete, et dont les moyens et le credit sont suffisans de rassembler ces differentes marchandises au lieu ou l'embarquement devoit se faire ; Cette maison par ses relations étendues donneroit a la fois des ordres dans toutes les fabriques, car il ne se trouve pas icy des magasins suffisans pour pouvoir y faire une pareille emplette, et dans tous les cas le fournisseur, comme le commissionaire, devoit s'adresser necessairement aux fabriques; nous sommes acoutumés d'operations de cette importance; Celle qui nous fut confiée il y a 4 ans par le Conseil de la Caroline fut executée avec une promptitude et une exactitude qui nous merita des remercemens particuliers de la part de Monsieur votre pere qui nous l'avoit procurée, et ce fut en donnant en meme tems des ordres dans toutes les fabriques que nous fumes en Etat de renvoyer le navire du cap<sup>ne</sup> Cokran, entierement Chargé deux mois après son arrivée icy nous n'oserions pas vous promettre, Monsieur, de rassembler dans une si courte espace tous les articles contenus dans votre note, mais si vous nous donniez positivement l'ordre de les acheter nous ne perdrons pas un instant, et nous les cometrions a la fois dans les differens lieux ou il faut necessairement s'adresser pour les procurer, nous agirions alors comme

ment. Such a house would, through its extensive connections, give at one time orders for all the fabrics, for there are not found here store-houses sufficient to enable them to make so complete a collection, and in any case the contractor, like the salesman, should necessarily attend to the goods. We are accustomed to operations of such importance. That which was entrusted to us four years ago by the Council of Carolina was executed with a promptness and accuracy that won for us special thanks from Monsieur your father who had secured it for us, and it was by placing at the same time our orders for all the goods that we were able to despatch Capt. Cokran's ships completely loaded two months after his arrival here. We would not venture to promise you, Monsieur, to collect in so short a space all the articles contained in your list, but if you would give us positively the order to buy them we would not lose an instant, and we would order them at once in the different places where it is necessary to send to procure them. We would act then as we are in the habit of doing always, that is to say we would do everything in our power to fix the price in every possible case, accepting the usual

nous sommes acoutumés de faire toujours, est a dire que nous ferions tout ce que seroit en notre pouvoir pour en etablir les prix au plus cas possible, en nous contentant pour tous nos soins de la comission ordinaire de deux pour cent. et de cette manière le Congrès y trouveroit certainement une œconomie considerable nous ne vous parlerons pas, Monsieur, de l'exactitude et de la fidelité que nous mettons dans toutes nos operations, c'est un devoir auquel les gens d'honneur ne sauroient se soustraire, et a cet egard nous croyons meriter la reputation dont nous jouissons.

Nous joignons icy, Monsieur, un memoire sur les differens objets que vous demandéz, nous y avons mis tous les eclairecissements que nous avons pu pour prouver depuis la Reception de votre lettre nous nous occupons a prendre des informations plus etendues, afin de nous mettre en etat d'executer promptement cette commission au cas que vous jugrez a propos de nous en charger, quoique il en soit, et de quelque maniere que vous jugrez a propos de nous employer ne fut ce meme que pour vous procurer des Renseignemens vous pouvez compter Monsieur, que nous sommes entierement a vos or-

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commission of two per cent., for our trouble, and by that means the Congress would certainly find a considerable saving. We will not mention to you, Monsieur, the accuracy and fidelity which we use in all our transactions. It is a duty which men of honor never mind, and in that respect we believe that we deserve the reputation we enjoy. We send herewith, Monsieur, a memorandum of the various matters that you demand. We have made all the explanations that we could, in order to prove that since the receipt of your letter we have been busy obtaining the most extensive information in order to put ourselves in a condition to execute promptly that commission should you see fit to entrust us with it; whatever it may be and in whatsoever way you may see fit to employ us, were it even only to procure information for you, you may be assured, Monsieur, that we are entirely at your disposal, and that we could have no greater satisfaction than to be able to convince you on all occasions of the distinguished and respectful sentiments with which we have the honor to be, Monsieur,

Your very humble and very  
obedient Servants,

Babut & Labouchere.

Nantes, April 17, 1781.  
Col. John Laurens.



dres, et que nous n'aurons pas de plus grand satisfaction, que de pouvoir vous convaincre dans tous les occasions des sentimens distingués, et Respectueux avec lesquels nous avons l'honneur d'être.

Monsieur Vos très humbles et très  
obeissants Serviteurs  
Babut & Labouchere

Nantes le 17 Avril 1781.

Monsieur le Colonel John Laurens

*Endorsed by John Laurens :* from  
Babut & LaBouchere  
Nantes 17 Avril 81

*Endorsed by Henry Laurens ; Babut & Labouchere—  
Nantz 17<sup>th</sup> April 1781—*

[47. 46]

[MADAME DILLON TO JOHN LAURENS.]

*Addressed :* a Monsieur  
Monsieur Le Colonel  
Laurance.  
a L'hotel d'angleterre  
rue de richelieu  
a Paris

Paris le lundy 14 May  
je n' ai aucun droit pour prettendre a vos bontés, Monsieur,  
que celles que vous avéz pour tous les gens que vous pouvez  
obliger, c'est sur quoi je fonde ma confiance, et vous pouvez

<sup>46</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D.:

Paris, Monday 14 May

I have no right to tax your good offices, Monsieur, it is only upon those that you have for everybody whom you can oblige that I base my confidence, and you can do me a great kindness. I have three

me rendre un grand service. j'ai trois freres et des amis dans l'armée de Mr le Conte de Rochembo, je desire de leur faire tenir des lettres. voudriez vous vous en charger? et voudriez vous me dire quelle jour et a quelle heure je puis aller vous les remettre moi-meme. Si un diné de famille ne vous éfroyoit pas, si vous vouliez demain, Monsieur, me faire l'honneur de venir diner avec moi a 3 heures et demi, vous me combleriez de joy, et ce seroit mes parans et mes amis en amérique que je chargerois de vous marquer ma reconnoissance sans en rien perdre dans mon coeur.

j' ai l'honneur d'etre, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obeissante servante

Dillon Martinville

rue de grenelle f. St. Germain

No 231

je serai chez moi demain depuis 9 heures du matin jusqu'a midy et depuis trois heures jusqu'a six.

*Endorsed :* Note from Madame

Dillon —————

14<sup>th</sup> May 1781—

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brothers and some friends in the army of M. the Count de Rochembo (sic.) I am anxious to forward letters to them. Would you take charge of them? and would you tell me what day and at what hour I may come to deliver them to you myself? Should a family dinner not frighten you, if you would to-morrow, Monsieur, do me the honor to come and dine with me at half-past three you would give me the greatest of pleasure, and I will charge my relations and friends in America with showing my gratitude to you without losing anything of it in my heart. I have the honor to be, Monsieur, your very humble and very obedient servant,

Dillon Martinville,

Rue de Grenelle, faubourg St Germain

No. 231

I shall be at home tomorrow from 9 o'clock in the morning until noon, and from three o'clock until six.

[48.<sup>47</sup>]

[BABUT & LABOUCHERE TO JOHN LAURENS.]

*Addressed :*

a Monsieur  
Monsieur John Laurens  
Colonel, au service des Etats  
unis de l'amerique  
Recomendée a Monsieur  
le Docteur franklin  
Paris

Monsieur

Nous avons reçu la lettre dont vous nous avez honorés le 11 de ce moi qui nous donne avis de votre traite de £2400 qui a reçu tout l'accueil quelle merite et nous la porterons au compte de Monsieur votre pere.

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<sup>47</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D. :

Sir

We have received the letter with which you honored us on the eleventh of this month giving us notice of your remittance of £2400, which has received all the welcome due to it, and which we have put to your father's credit.

Although the matter of the supplies has taken a different turn, we are not less appreciative. Monsieur, of the good intentions which you had in our behalf. Please be assured that our attachment and our veneration for you and for all that concerns you are based upon considerations purer and more distinguished than those of self interest; give us the opportunity, Monsieur, of showing you proofs of these feelings; they are unfeigned

You flatter us with the hope of seeing you soon at Nantes. Please remember, Monsieur, the promise you made to come and stay with us. That will ensure to us the pleasure of being for a longer time together and of being able to renew more especially the feelings of respectful devotion with which we have the honor to be, Monsieur

Your very humble and very  
obedient Servants,

Nantes. 15 May 1781  
To Col. John Laurens,  
Paris.

Babut & Labouchere

Quoique l'affaire de la fourniture ait pris une tournure différente, nous ne sommes pas moins reconnoissants, Monsieur, au bonnes intentions que vous aviez en notre faveur veuillez etre bien persuadé que notre attachement et notre veneration pour vous et pour tout ce que vous apartient sont fondés sur des titres bien plus purs et plus distingués que ceux de l'intéret, mettez nous a meme, Monsieur, de vous donner des preuves de ces sentimens, elles ne sont pas equivoques.

Vous nous flattez de l'esperance de vous voir bientot a Nantes vous voudrez bien vous repeller, Monsieur, de la promesse que vous nous avez fait de venir prendre votre logement chez nous, cela nous prouvera la satisfaction d'être plus longtems ensemble, et de pouvoir vous renouveler plus particulièrement les sentimens du devouement respectueux avec lesquels nous avons l'honneur d'être, Monsieur.

Vos tres humbles et tres  
obeissants Serviteurs  
Babut & Labouchere

Nantes le 15 may 1781

Mr Le Colonel John Laurens  
a Paris

*Endorsed* : Babut & Labouchere  
Nantes 15<sup>th</sup> May 1781

[49.<sup>48</sup>]

[M. NECKER TO JOHN LAURENS.]

J' ai été bien fâché d'avoir été retenu trop longtems pour temoigner a Monsieur le Colonel Laurens tout l'intérest que je prend a son heureux voyage S'il étoit encore a Paris demain & qu'il fut libre Mad. Necker seroit tres aise qu'il voulut bien luy faire l'honneur de diner chez elle.

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<sup>48</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D. :

I am sorry to have been so long prevented from showing Col. Laurens all the interest that I take in his successful voyage. Should he be still in Paris tomorrow and at leisure Mad. Necker would be

Je joins icy une lettre pour Mr le Chev<sup>re</sup> de Chatelux & une pour M. de La Fayette dont je vous prie Monsieur, de vouloir bien vous charger.

Si je puis vous etre bon a quelque chose dans ce pays je vous prie de disposer de moi et d'etre persuadé que j'ai senti toute l'honnêteté de votre caractere et la sagesse de votre conduite. Agrêez je vous prie, Monsieur, tous mes complimens.

ce Mardy 16 May.

*Endorsed by Henry Laurens* : Note from  
Madame Necker <sup>49</sup>  
16<sup>h</sup> May 1781—

[50.<sup>50</sup>]

[LIST OF EFFECTS SHIPPED FROM FRANCE FOR THE UNITED STATES  
23D MAY 1781.]

23 May	Effets à Embarquer
1781	
	Artillerie
	4 mortiers et leur affuts
	1200 Bombes
	2 obuziers et leur affuts

much pleased if he would do her the honor of dining with her.

I send herewith a letter for the Chevalier de Chatelux and one for M. de La Fayette which I beg you, Monsieur, to be kind enough to take charge of. If I can be of any service to you in this country I beg you to command me, and to be assured that I have recognized all the honesty of your character and the wisdom of your conduct. Accept, I beg of you, Monsieur, all my respects.

Tuesday 16 May

<sup>49</sup> This note was written by Monsieur Necker, and Mr. Laurens was misled by his reference to his wife to think that it was a note in the third person from Madame Necker herself.

<sup>50</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D. :

	Goods for Shipment
23 May	Artillery
1781	4 Mortars and their carriages
	1200 Shells
	2 Howitzers and their carriages

400 obus		
13032 Fusils, dont 32 d'officiers		
1.050000 Balles de 18 à la L en 583 Caisses		
200000 Pierres à Fusil		
200000 L de Poudre		
2000 L Mèches à Canon		
Sabres et Fourreaux		
Effets de Campement		
1000 Tentes, dont 800 d'Inf <sup>rie</sup>		
200 de Cav <sup>rie</sup>		
Habillemens et Equipemens		
Chapeaux	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{pr officiers 1 B} \text{ ————— } 144 \\ \text{p. Bas officiers 2 . . . . . } 240 \\ \text{pr Soldats 12 . . . . . } 1320 \end{array} \right\}$	1704
drap 1 B <sup>lot</sup>	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Bleu de Roy} \text{ ————— } 89\frac{1}{4} \\ \text{Blanc} \text{ ————— } 63\frac{1}{2} \\ \text{Noizette} \text{ ————— } 30\frac{1}{8} \end{array} \right\}$	183 $\frac{5}{8}$
drap de Lodève blanc pour soldats 12 B. 1566 $\frac{1}{2}$		
drap et	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Sedan écarlatte} \text{ ————— } 50\frac{1}{2} \\ \text{Chamois} \text{ ————— } 21\frac{1}{8} \\ \text{Etamine Blanche} \text{ ————— } 100 \end{array} \right\}$	171 $\frac{1}{8}$
etamine 1 B		
drap bleu de Lodève 21 B 2,675		2675
Toile 6	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Bleuatre, pr chemises, 9 B. 4044} \\ \text{Grise pr doublure, 11 B. . . 5007} \end{array} \right\}$	9051
Coutil	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{de Beaufort, 6 B. 2149} \\ \text{Blanc de } \frac{2}{8} \text{ 1 B. 859} \\ \text{id. ———— 44 B — 15019} \end{array} \right\}$	18027

400 Howitzer Shells  
 13032 Guns, of which 32 for officers  
 1,050000 Balls, 18 to the lb, in 583 cases  
 200,000 Gun-flints  
 200,000 lbs Powder  
 2000 lbs Cannon fuses  
 Sabres and scabbards  
 Camp Goods  
 1000 Tents, of which 800 for Infantry  
 200 for Cavalry

Moleton blanc—25 B. 5996  
 Bazin blanc, rayé—3 B. 2259  
 Bougraud, p—habits—1 B. 79 pieces  
 Bas { de laine 6 B—2920 } 4120  
 de f { de fil gris 2 B 1200 }  
 Tricot blanc—10 B. 2570  
 Serge blanche—6 B. 3792  
 Cadis blanc—2. 1029  
 Chemises—24 B. 4800  
 Couvertures—13 B. 1300  
 Bretelles de fusil—1 B. 1000  
 50.000 Eguilles—1 B  
 du 26 { Chemises 6 B ques —1200  
 May { Triot blanc—23 B<sup>etu</sup> 6012½

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Clothing and Equipments

Hats { for officers 1 B.....144 }  
 { " subalterns 2 B. 240 } 1704  
 { " soldiers 12.....1320 }  
 Cloth, 1 { King's blue..... 89½ }  
 { White .....63½ } 183½  
 small bale { Nut-brown..... 30½ }  
 White Lodève cloth for soldiers, 12 B, 1566½  
 Cloth and { Scarlet Sedan.....50½ }  
 Bunting { Chamois..... 21½ } 171½  
 1 B. { White Bunting.....100 }  
 Blue Lodève cloth, 21 B. ....2675 } 2675  
 Linen, 6 { Pale blue, for shirts, 9 B. 4044 } 9051  
 { Grey, for lining 11 B. 5007 }  
 Ticking { Beaufort, 6 B..... 2149 }  
 { White, ¾ 1 B..... 859 } 18027  
 { ditto...44 B.....15019 }  
 White Swanskin.....25 B. 5996  
 White barred Dimity 3 B, 2259  
 Buckram, for coats... 1 B. 79 pieces  
 Stockings { Woollen, 6 B. ....2920 } 4120  
 yarn { Grey thread 2 B. 1200 }  
 White tricot.....10 B. 2570  
 White serge..... 6 B. 3792  
 White caddis... 2. 1029  
 Shirts..... 24 B. 4800  
 Bed-covers. 13 B. 1300  
 Gun slings 1 B. 1000  
 50 000 needles 1 B.  
 On 26 May { Shirts, 6 pkges., 1200  
 { White tricot 23 B. 6012½

*Endorsed :* List of Effects Shipped  
from France for the  
United States  
23<sup>d</sup> May 1781——

[51.<sup>51</sup>]

[LOUIS DE CHAUMONT TO JOHN LAURENS.]

Monsieur

Le déplacement de M. Necker qui aneautit toute la mauvaise volonté qu'il m'avait voué en ma qualité de bon ami des américains, m'a fait prier M. Cottin d'annuler la cession que je lui avais fait des Marchandises que j'ay à Brest dans

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<sup>51</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D. :

Monseur :

The removal of M. Necker, which disposes of all the ill-will that he has expressed towards me on account of my strong friendship for the Americans has made me desire M. Cottin to cancel the assignment that I had made to him of the merchandise that I had at Brest in M. Berrol's hands, and which I had sent there to duplicate the goods that I had delivered to Mr Franklin and which were shipped on my vessel "le Marquis de La Fayette," because I consider the matter of clothing of such importance that its failure might produce a most unfavorable crisis in our affairs. It suits me just at this juncture, Monsieur, since M. Necker is dismissed that these goods pass to my credit in America, and I beg that you will co-operate with me in shipping them with you. I agree that if they should be absolutely necessary for your troops you may so dispose of them, and should such necessity not exist you will kindly have them turned over to M. Holker to be held on my account. I hope we may soon hear of the arrival in America of my ship "Le Marquis de La Fayette," but should any mischance befall her my foresight in duplicating by other channels what is so necessary to your armies will prove, Monsieur, how much devoted I am to the good cause and how much I ought to rejoice that M. Necker is no longer in a position to thwart my good intentions.

I have the honor to be with respect,

Monsieur

Your very humble and  
very obedient Servt.

Louis de Chaumont

To Col Laurens



les mains de M. Berrol, et que j'y avais fait arriver pour doubler Celles que j'ay cédée a M. franklin et qui sont embarquées sur mon V<sup>au</sup> le Marquis de la fayette parce que je regardois l' object des vestesmentes d' unne telle importance que leur deffaut aurait pu occasioner oune crise tres defavorable a Nos affaires, il me convient, actuellement, Monsieur, que M. Necker est renvoyer, que les marchandises passent pour mon compte en amerique, et je vous prie d'y co-operer en les embarquant avec vous, je consens si elles sont d' unne necessité absolue pour vos troupes que vous en disposiez, et si cette necessité n'existe pas vous voudrez bien les faire remettre a la disposition de M. holker pour m'en tenir compte, j'espere que nous apprendrons bientôt l'arrivée de mon V<sup>au</sup> le Marquis de la fayette a l'amerique, mais si il etoit arrivée malheur, ma prevoyance de doubler par autres envoys ce qui est si Necessaire a vos armées prouve, Monsieur, combien je suis devouée a la bonne cause et combien je dois me rejouer que M. Necker ne soit plus a mesure de traverser mes bonnes intentions

J'ai l'honneur d'etre avec respect

Monsieur

Vostre tres humble  
et tres obeissant Serv.

M. le Colonel Laurens

Louis de Chaumont

*Endorsed :* Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Chaumont  
supposed written at Paris

[52.<sup>52</sup>]

[JOHN LAURENS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES.]

Permettez, Monsieur Le Comte qu'au moment de mon depart je vous rappelle la promesse que vous avez bien voulu faire, de presser les departemens de la finance et de la marine

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<sup>52</sup> TRANSLATION (1900) BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D. :

Permit me, Monsieur Le Conte, on the eve of my departure, to remind you of the promise that you were kind enough to make to urge upon the Departments of Finance and of the Navy the remittance of

pour l'envoi futur de secours pecuniaires que le Roi a accordé a ses Allies. L'effet de l'envoi actuel depend entièrement de la facon dont il est secondé pour en tirer l'avantage que l'on se propose, il sera absolument indispensable de la soutenir et de le faire suivre de très près par les autres sans cela, il ne deviendrait qu'un faible palliatif. Je renouvelle donc mes instances, Monsieur Le Conte, pour que le second envoi parte d'ici au mois de juillet au plus tard; il arriverait pour lors à une epoque dans laquelle les operations tant militaires que politiques en ressentiroient le plus grand bien. La Reussite de la Revolution tient à l'apropos de ce secours; la gloire et l'interest de la nation française, la dignite du Roi, votre gloire personnelle Monsieur Le Conte demande cette reussite, votre genie superieure doit en decider.

Je vous supplie Monsieur Le Conte d'agreer les vœux ardens que je fais pour tout ce qui peut contribuer à la gloire de votre administration et à la prosperité de votre personne.

*Endorsed* : Copy of a Letter supposed  
to Count de Vergennes—  
relating to the French Loan  
from J. Laurens—

[*To be continued in the next number of this Magazine.*]

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the future subsidies which the King has granted to his allies. The effect of the present remittance depends entirely upon the manner in which it is followed up for securing the advantage that is proposed. It will be absolutely indispensable to support it and follow it very closely by others, Without that it will become merely a weak palliative. I therefore renew my suggestions, M. Le Conte, that the second remittance should leave here in the month of July at the latest. It would reach us, then, at a juncture when the military as well as the political operations would derive from it the greatest benefit. The success of the Revolution depends upon these subsidies; the glory and the interest of the French nation, the dignity of the King, your own personal reputation, M. Le Conte, demand that success, your superior genius ought to ensure it.

I beg you, M. Le Conte, to accept the ardent wishes that I express for the glory of your administration and for your personal prosperity.